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EDITORIAL

Struggle amid widespread suffering under Marcos

The Filipino people's struggle has entered a new phase as Ferdinand Marcos Jr takes his place as the new head of the neocolonial state. The people and their patriotic and democratic forces face a great challenge to strengthen the unity of the people and to advance their struggles.

Like his father dictator and predecessors, Marcos the bureaucrat capitalist represents the interests of the ruling classes of big comprador bourgeoisie and big landlords. Marcos took power at a time when the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system is mired in crisis worsened by the militarist lockdown and failed response to the Covid-19 pandemic. But instead of propping up the local economy, he continues to carry out debilitating neoliberal policies amid the global capitalist crisis.

The reactionary government is bankrupted by corruption and wasteful military and police spending. It is drowning in debts accumulated by the previous Duterte regime. The peso is fast losing value against the dollar. The country's trade deficit is rising due to higher costs of imports. Investments are slow and small businesses are closing down. A fifth of the budget go to servicing loans which people did not benefit from, leaving social spending sorely lacking.

People's lives are fast sinking. Millions of workers and toiling people are unemployed or earn nothing. Wages and income are grossly insufficient as prices of oil, food, fare, tuition, medicine and medical services, and other goods and services are escalating. Farmers' livelihoods have fallen due to exorbitant land rents, high costs of production, high loan interests, falling farmgate prices and dumping of imported rice, vegetables, even meat, in the local market. Fisherfolks' livelihood have also fallen due to restrictions, especially in seas being overrun by China.

Even if people work until they drop, they cannot earn enough to feed their children and give them a decent or comfortable life. The meager aid that government distributes is not enough to alleviate their misery. It is not enough for people to endure and persevere, especially knowing how the ruling classes and government thieves accumulate riches and live in luxury.

The Filipino people are hungry and furious. Faced with the people's anger, Marcos offers promises and dreams of prosperity, food security and cheap prices. But a few days after he swore and promised, the Marcoses held a secret party in honor of the thief Imelda in the halls of Malacañang—a simple snack, purportedly, but a great insult to the hungry masses who soldier on and persevere.

Nothing good will come out of the Marcos government which seeks to enamor the people with illusions and fantasies. Seeking to placate the people, Marcos foolishly declared he did not believe that the inflation had reached more than 6%. He acts as if he knows more than the people who daily bear the brunt of the soaring prices in markets and stores.

Reject the illusions being conjured by Marcos! Fight for the people's rights and welfare! Begging from exploiters, oppressors and thieves will amount to nothing. If the people do not rise together, they will not be heard. If they do not march in unison in the streets, the ruling classes will not heed.

The people need to muster a powerful movement to fight for and defend their interests and welfare. Towards this, unions should be strengthened and established especially in the biggest factories and businesses, as well as various forms of democratic mass organizations in rural villages, urban communities, universities, offices, churches and hospitals. Unite the interests of workers, farmers and various sectors, amplify their voices, and organize their struggles.



The people's awareness about the conditions of the country, of the various sectors and communities and solutions to their problems should be raised tirelessly. Produce pamphlets and newspapers to serve as medium and instrument for uniting the masses. Launch various mass actions to air their grievances and demand for lower commodity prices, higher wages and salaries, jobs, decent housing, free land distribution, lower land rent and interest rates, fair farmgate prices, free education, free medical services, and other urgent people's demands.

The masses' will to resist must be tempered in the face of terror and repression by the state's armed forces. Their unity are their inexhaustible source of courage. No amount of repression and tyranny can defeat their determination to struggle together.

In various parts of the world, from Korea to Ecuador, from Uruguay to the United Kingdom, strikes and protests of workers, farmers, minorities and other oppressed sectors are erupting in the face of crisis, intense suffering and oppression. Like in these countries, the miserable conditions besetting the Filipino people are dry kindling ready to ignite into a great conflagration engulfing the cities and vast countryside.

The Party must continually strengthen and expand in an all-round way to raise its capacity to lead the Filipino people in their struggles. It must recruit and train thousands of cadres to form and lead party branches that have deep and wide roots among the masses, and are in a position to lead them in all fields of struggle. AB

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Contents

Editorial: Struggle amid widespread suffering under Marcos 1
Organized uprisings erupt across the world 3
Media suppression ahead of Marcos' inauguration 4
NPA-Sultan Kudarat mounts 4 offensives 4
Marcos' inauguration met with protest 4
Marcos is no friend to farmers 5
Pride is a protest 5
Aggression and plunder by American companies in FSMR 6
In short 7
Four flu-stricken Red fighters massacred 8
Peace talks are unlikely 8
Protests erupt in US after suppression of abortion rights 9

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ang.bayan@cpp.ph @cpp_angbayan1

Organized uprisings erupt across the world

The intensifying international capitalist crisis causing grave hardships on the toiling people has caused global social unrest. Massive protest actions by unions and democratic organizations demanding higher wages, oil price rollbacks and economic rights and demands have erupted and is engulfing the world.



Latin America's Paro Nacional

The 18-day Paro Nacional (national strike) led by the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (Conaie), federation of indigenous Ecuadorian groups, was a success. The strike ended on June 30 after Guillermo Lazo's government responded to the group's 10-point demand.

These demands include lowering of oil prices by 15 cents, price control on basic commodities, declaring a health emergency to speed up supply of medicines, subsidy for poor families, production subsidies and lowering of farmers' debt interest, among others.

Since June 13, thousands of indigenous peoples and other sectors flooded the streets to prevent the traffic of vehicles and people. More than 20 major roads were paralyzed. At the height of the protests, human rights groups reported six killed, 300 wounded and illegal arrests in the series of police dispersals.

Unions and mass organizations in Uruguay also launched their own *paro nacional* beginning the second week of June.

Sectoral organizations mounted successive actions against social spending cuts. On June 9, the workers' unions in the steel and milk industry demonstrated. Teachers and youth also took action on June 15 to fight the buget cuts in the education sector.

The following day, government employees held their strike. On June 29, construction workers demonstrated and maritime workers followed suit on July 5. They demanded job security, housing, collective negotiations and more.

In Panama, unions and broad alliances launched a national strike starting July 1 against neoliberal policies which according to them worsened during the pandemic. They faced the state's violent response, barricaded the major roads and marched to large cities.

Their demands include lowering the prices of oil, basic commodities and medicine and higher wages and salaries. They also demanded an end to corruption, rehabilitation of schools, dismantling of four US military bases in the country and supporting national minorities.

Workers' strikes

Up to 80,000 Belgians participated in the strike launched last June 20. They demanded for government response to rising prices and costs of living. Protesters raised placards with slogans "More Respect, Higher Wages" and "end excise duty." The protest paralyzed the local transportation including airport operations in Brussels.

In South Korea, at least 50,000 marched on the streets of Seoul last July 2 to call for the improvement of workers' conditions. The protest was led by the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. This was the first major protest launched in the country under the new government of Pres. Yoon Suk-Yeol.

In France, thousands of transportation workers held a strike on July 1 to demand wage increases in the face of rising inflation. At an airport, 17% of flights were temporarily paralyzed. The strike coincided with the first day of the country's local vacation period.

In the United Kingdom, workers twice paralyzed the British train system. The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers held a strike covering 14 railroad systems on June 16 and 23. It saw the participation of 40,000 workers and is said to have been the largest in the past three decades.

In South Africa, 4,000 contractual workers belonging to the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa held a strike against three labor agencies that contract miners to Impala Platinum Holdings Limited. They demanded regularization of their jobs in the mining company, additional wages which according to them are far below what regular workers receive, and recognition of their union. Impala Platinum is the second largest platinum mine in the world. AB

Media suppression ahead of Marcos' inauguration

Media suppression went into full swing on days leading to Ferdinand Marcos Jr's inauguration to Malacañang. On June 29, the Securities and Exchange Commission upheld its 2018 decision to shutdown news site Rappler. Earlier, the National Task Force-Elcac ordered telecommunications companies to block 28 websites, including the website of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front of the Philippines, alternative media and media and international organizations.

The successive closures to the flow of information on the internet is equal to a digital martial law. The CPP called it the "Marcos Anti-Democracy" (MAD) firewall which brazenly suppresses the people's rights to a free press, as well as their right to express criticism on the reactionary state. Rappler's closure is based on the allegation that the news site is foreign-funded.

The blocking of the 28 websites was ordered by Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, National Security Council former chief, on June 8 on the basis that these were "terroristic." Esperon insisted that such blocking was in accordance with the decision of the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) to baselessly designate as "terrorists" the Party and its "supporters." In reality, the MAD Firewall has nothing to do with terrorism.



The suppression was met with widespread condemnation and protests, including by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines which anticipated the state's use of the Anti-Terror Law to suppress all kinds of criticism. The group fears that Marcos will ban journalists on the traditional media (television, radio and print) to publish or broadcast anything critical about him and his family.

According to Ret. Justice Antonio Carpio, the government has no authority to block websites, even those which it deems "terroristic." AB

NPA-Sultan Kudarat mounts 4 offensives

The New People's Army (NPA)-Sultan Kudarat mounted four armed offensives from June 15 to June 29 against operating police and military units.

The NPA lobbed a grenade and fired at a counterinsurgency unit of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) operating in Sitio Meleb, Barangay Butril, Palimbang on June 29. Five policemen were killed while two were injured.

In the same town, the NPA fired at 7th IB forces in Sitio Fliko, Barangay Balwan on the afternoon of June 15. This was followed by another armed action by Red fighters on June 18 against the 37th IB in Barangay Molon. Two days later, the NPA again attacked the 38th IB in the same village. At least five soldiers died. The number of injured soldiers has yet to be confirmed.

According to the NPA unit's report, the soldiers formed part of nearly a thousand troops operating in the area. Operating units included the 38th IB, the battalion responsible for CAFGU training and in direct service of DM Consunji Inc. and which guards its logging operations, among others.

The NPA unit also reported that soldiers also suffered 30 casualties (unconfirmed number of killed) in a misencounter between their units on June 18. The NPA is still confirming an initial report that the AFP dropped bombs on their own forces.

In Camarines Sur, NPA Red fighters fired at a 9th ID operating unit in Sitio Balaybayong, Barangay Tanauan, Presentacion last June 15. Three soldiers were killed while eight were wounded. AB

Inauguration of illegitimate president met with protest



The inauguration of Ferdinand Marcos Jr as president was met with protests across the country. In Metro Manila, progressive groups assembled in Plaza Miranda, in Quiapo, where they expressed their rejection of the Marcos regime, its distortion of history, and called for justice for the victims of his father's martial law regime. They also raised people's demands for wage increases, lowering of prices of commodities and oil and others.

Simultaneously, relatives of victims of martial law and veteran activists gathered at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani (Monument of Heroes), Quezon City where they pledged to continue the struggle against Marcos' revisionism and for the people's betterment.

In Bicol, Anakbayan-Naga led the march from Panganiban Drive in Naga City to Plaza Oragon to reject Marcos. People from various districts of Camarines Sur also attended the program.

Similar programs were also held in Cebu, Negros and Panay where different organizations expressed repudiation of the Marcos II regime.

Overseas, the Never Forget Contingent led hundreds of protesters in Times Square, New York City. About 150 Filipino migrants in California also assembled to express their rejection of the new regime. AB

Marcos is no friend to farmers

Hardships under Masagana 99

In his inauguration as president last June 30, Marcos said that he will prioritize addressing the food crisis. He claimed that it was only during his father's dictatorship that food security was given attention—as if to rub salt on the peasant masses' unhealed wounds.



What really happened under Marcos Sr? It is relevant for the peasant masses and entire people to recall the Marcos dictatorship's biggest sins against the peasantry. In this series, Ang Bayan aims to review the history of the peasant masses' hardships under martial law in order to conscientiously face Marcos' schemes that will bring greater suffering to the farmers.

Masagana 99 bankrupted farmers

In 1972, farms were crippled by pests ang disasters, causing extensive destruction and hardships to farmers. The dictator Marcos took advantage of the situation to push for the Masagana 99 program in May 1973 purportedly to raise farmers' production. But in the process, he bankrupted the peasant masses.

Masagana 99 is Marcos Sr's version of the "Green Revolution" scheme of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank (WB), and United States Agency for International Aid (USAID), Bayer, Monsanto and other transnational corporations in agriculture.

Its first component is the propagation of high-yielding variety (HYVs) of palay; and second, the extensive system of government-managed credit. These aimed to raise farmers' harvest to 99 cavans of palay per hectare. HYVs are seeds produced in laboratories such as those of the International Rice Research Institute. To bear fruit, HYVs require more chemical fertilizers and pesticides—produced and sold by agrochemical transnational corporations.

From 1972 to 1982, the WB extended up to $1.5 billion in loans to fund Masagana 99. This comprised 44% of the WB's total loans to the country. Majority went to the purchase of imported inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, food) and machine parts which in 1984 amounted to 99% of the $150 million loan.

Using HYVs caused farmers' production expenses to swell. Between 1966 and 1979, palay production costs skyrocketed by 89%. The largest increase in expenses was in the costs of imported inputs, which grew thrice (262%) than before.

To ensure that necessary chemicals for HYVs can be bought, Masagana 99 pushed banks to provide credit for farmers. To speed up the process, loan collaterals were eliminated. The government also guaranteed up to 85% of the banks' losses due to unpaid loans. The WB also pushed the "market" to set credit interests. From only 12%, interests on Masagana 99 loans increased by 16% to 38% in 1984.

The Marcos dictatorship bragged that "rice self-sufficiency" was achieved in 1975 and that the Philippines became a rice-exporter during 1977-1983. It does not, however, mention how these Masagana 99 "victories" caused long-term damages to the livelihood of farmers and the people in the countrysides.

Production indeed rose by 55%, but so did the farmers' expenses which went up by 89%. This cannot compensate for the meager 20% increase in farmers' income between 1966 and 1976. As a result, more and more farmers were unable to pay their loans. In 1979, only 45.8% were paying.

Farmers more and more lost the capacity to acquire government-managed loans. In 1980-1984, only around 60,000 farmers were included in Masagana 99, from half a million in 1974-1975. Millions of farmers went bankrupt and living standards in the countrysides plummeted. In 1983, up to 73% of the families in the countrysides were poor, compared to 33% in 1971.

By 1984, the Philippines went back to rice importation and stopped exporting rice one year later.

Moreover, the chemicals poisoned the environment and natural fertilizers were destroyed. Exposure to chemicals also caused severe health problems for farmers such as liver illnesses, diminished the rich farming culture of Filipinos, and eradicated traditional seedlings. AB

Pride is a protest

Several hundred delegates of the national-democratic LGBTQ+ group Bahaghari participated in the Pride protests in Pasay City and Quezon City last June 25 and 28. They demanded that the Duterte regime be held accountable and called for resistance against the incoming illegitimate Marcos II regime.

They were part of at least 55,000 participants to the Pride protests held accross the country. The protests drumbeated the sector's campaign against discrimination and oppression, recognition of their rights and legislation of the SOGIE Equality bill.

Activities were also held in the cities of Baguio, Iloilo, Dumaguete, and Butuan, in Romblon, Cebu, Misamis Oriental and other places in the country. Meanwhile, the Southern Tagalog Pride led a regional protest in UP Los Baños last June 28. AB

Intervention and plunder by American companies in FSMR



Attacks against the people of Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR) are being heightened by US imperialism. Along with nonstop landgrabbing and plunder by huge American agribusiness companies, large American mining companies are set to sweep and plunder the rich resources of the region's mountains.

FSMR's mineral riches

According to studies, the region possesses rich mineral deposits which are important to industry and world trade. Overall, it holds the biggest copper deposit of up to 2.9 billion metric tons. It also has iron deposits which are estimated to be at 2.5 million metric tons, and gold at 2.275 million metric tons. In addition, there are significant deposits of silver, zinc, lead, manganese and others. Along the borders of South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur lies the biggest gold deposit in southeast Asia, also considered to be one of the world's biggest copper deposits.

This abundance of mineral resources has attracted big local and foreign capitalists to invest in mining projects in the region. Foremost is the Tampakan Gold-Copper Project which is the largest in the country and is valued at $5.9 billion. However, the people have successfully fought and stopped its operations.

Based on May 2022 records, 41 local and foreign companies have been granted 56 concessions in different provinces. These cover a combined area of up to 345,548 hectares or 15.35% of the region. Operations by 15 concessions controlling up to 96,052 hectares have also been approved. There are also 41 other pending concessions covering 249,496 hectares.

Imperialist interests in mining

At least 17 mining companies operating in the region are 100% foreign-owned. Of these, eight are owned by Americans and control concessions covering a total of 53,081 hectares. Among the biggest are Providence Mining, Shamrock Metals, Kalamazoo Mining and Galactica Mining.

Kalamazoo Mining is owned by The Kalamazoo Company in the US. Its operations are based in Australia and has interests in several Southeast Asian countries. Meanwhile, Providence Mining is an American multinational which operates large mines in Africa and North America. Shamrock Metals and Galactica Mining are subsidiaries of big US industries Shamrock System and Galactica Group USA and have different businesses in and outside the US.

The operations of seven of these eight companies are concentrated in Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato. These cover most of the southern Daguma Range, Mt. Parker and the large part of T'boli and Mt. Musa towards the borders of South Cotabato and Sarangani. These mountain ranges are among the ancestral lands of the Moros and the Dulangan-Manobo in Sultan Kudarat and the T'boli and B'laan in South Cotabato. These are covered with forests and watershed areas which support the vast agricultural lands of the region.

Secured by the military

Although mining areas have long pockmarked FSMR, widespread scouring of the region's mountains for mining started only in the 1990s. In tandem with the entry of foreign and local companies, the state intensified military presence to secure these operations.

In the past three decades, the state mounted a bloodly campaign against those opposing the mines. Lumad and Moro communities were attacked, and massacres and killings were carried out. People fought back with widespread and bigger democratic actions and armed resistance. For almost four decades, they successfully resisted the entry of open-pit mining operations in the region.

To subdue the people and pave the way for the mines, the state intesified its violence and attacks in the name of counterinsurgency and "counterterrorism." The AFP used US-supplied technology, arms and bombs to conduct surveillance and attacks on areas targeted for mining projects.

Currently, focused military operations by the 6th ID and the Joint Task Force Central continue in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat. The area is targeted for operations by four giant multinationals which include Mt. Peak Mining, Kalamazoo and Galactica, and Lazarus Corporation from England. Lazarus is a company owned by Dominic Wightman, a known promoter of "counterterrorism and counter-Islamic extremism" in Europe and the US.

Despite the state's repression and violence, the people in the region continue to fight. The land defense movement of Lumads, Moros and farmers in the countrysides are strengthening anew, together with the anti-mining campaigns in cities. Meanwhile, the masses' struggle and the armed revolution are reaping victories as they resist the state's attacks in Sultan Kudarat. AB

— IN — SHORT

70%



of Filipinos **lack the recommended amount of nutritious food** because most cannot afford them.

Source: Philippine Institute for Development Studies, June 2022

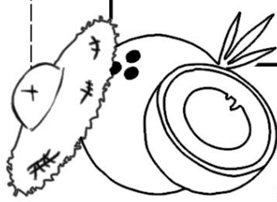
₱55.14=$1

peso-dollar exchange, highest in 16 years. This further pushes production costs and prices of commodities, and cut consumers and local producers' profits.

₱577 MILLION

for contact tracers and other pandemic-related response which the **Department of Interior and Local Government failed to disburse despite great need.**

Source: Commission on Audit



₱75 BILLION

current value of coco levy funds siphoned by the Marcoses during the dictatorship.

Properties bought using the said funds are now valued at ₱111.3 billion.

6,252

only of 30,000 extrajudicial killings were owned up by police which claims were killed in "shootouts" from July 2016 to May 2022 under the "war on drugs"

Source: RealNumbersPH



163 MILLION

plastic sachets used and disposed daily all over the Philippines.



Majority go to the seas killing fish and sea life.

Source: Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives

5 YEAR

term for presidents with possible reelection as proposed by a lawmaker pushing for **"charter change"** as gift for Marcos Jr on his inauguration day.

23

US-instigated proxy wars in Africa, the Middle East and Asia from 2017 to 2020.

Source: The Intercept, July 2022

Four flu-stricken Red fighters massacred

Soldiers of the 94th IB and local police mercilessly killed four sick Red fighters of the New People's Army while in custody in Sitio Calunakon, Barangay Santol, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental last July 6. The Red fighters were recuperating in a hut when they were captured. Instead of according them prisoner-of-war status in line with international humanitarian law, soldiers fatally shot Roel Ladera (Ka Jack), Nica Dela Cruz (Ka Chai), Alden Rodriguez (Ka Rocky) and Roel Deguit (Ka Caloy). The soldiers claimed the four were killed in an encounter from the adjacent barangay.

Last June 29, an unknown assailant shot radio announcer Federico "Deng" Gempesaw while on his way home in Sitio Macangan, Barangay Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City. Gempesaw is the third journalist killed in Mindanao this year alone.

Dispersal. Paid thugs violently dispersed workers' strike at Tanduay Distillers in Talisay, Negros Occidental last June 28. In a video posted on social media, workers and their picketline organized by the Tanduay Bottle Sorters Organization (TanSO-SUPER) were attacked by goons of Talisay Logistics Packaging Corporation. The workers' strike aims to oppose the company's plan to reduce their work days, which would consequently lower their already measly salaries. They also demand the reinstatement of dismissed workers, regularization of contractual employees and their right for workers' benefits.

Arrests. In Aklan, 30 elements of the 301st IBde went on house-to-house along C. Laserna St., Poblacion, Kalibo last June 22 to search for Bayan-Aklan officials Kim-Sin Tugna and George T. Calaor.

Meanwhile, members of the local police arrested Pamalakaya leader Susan Agner in Maragondon, Cavite, along with three other residents of Barangay Patungan last June 23.

Militarization. Since May 28, elements of the 303rd IBde laid siege on 32 communities and five villages in Himamaylan City and Moises Padilla in Negros Occidental. Their operations also covered areas of La Libertad, Guihulngan City and Vallehermoso in Negros Oriental.

In Himamaylan City, more than 600 soldiers encamped in 24 sitios in 4 barangays in the area. They caused widespread disruption in the lives of Tribu Magahat and Bukidnon tribe members residing in the area. Seven civilians, including two minors, were illegally arrested and interrogated at Sitio Lunoy and Conalum.

An office of a local peasant association in Barangay Carabalan was raided and its chairperson subjected to intense interrogation. The association's records and other legal papers were confiscated. In Moises Padilla, more than 100 soldiers encamped in sitios of Barangay Quintin Remo.

Forced surrender. In separate statements, local residents and the New People's Army (NPA)-Mt. Apo Subregional Command belied reports of the 72nd IB saying two Red fighters, a father and son, surrendered in Barangay Magsay-say, Kibawe, Bukidnon last June 23. According to the NPA, the two are farmers in the area.

Meanwhile, Nimfa Lanzanas was released last June 29, after the Regional Trial Court in Calamba City dismissed charges against her. Lanzanas was illegally arrested during a coordinated operation of arrests and killings known as Bloody Sunday in Southern Tagalog.

Likewise, the court dismissed first two cases filed by the police against #Tinang83 last June 27. The group still faces five more charges. Last June 20, the Department of Agrarian Reform formally recognized the farmers as legitimate beneficiaries of the hacienda. AB

Peace talks are unlikely

The Marcos II regime is predisposed towards continuing Rodrigo Duterte's policy of hindering the peace talks, weaponizing the Anti-Terror Law to intensify state terrorism, red-tagging, mass arrests, torture and mass murder in a vain attempt to end the people's democratic revolution. This was the statement of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Chief Political Consultant Jose Maria Sison on the day of Ferdinand Marcos Jr's inauguration.

There are no indications that Marcos would negotiate peace, he said. It is also unlikely to resume under the GRP's current all-out war policy. "There is nothing that the NDFP can do to resume the peace negotiations if the GRP insists on carrying out an all-out war policy," Sison said.

Not once did the fascist Marcos I dictatorship engage in peace negotiations nor was it able to crush the revolutionary movement, he added. Instead, this movement of the people succeeded in expanding nationwide... ultimately causing the downfall of the fascist dictatorship."

Previous heads of the reactionary state—from Cory Aquino to Rodrigo Duterte—all had the same objective of using peace negotiations to pay lip service to the cause of peace, carry out widespread surveillance against revolutionaries and preserve the exploitative and oppressive ruling system. At the same time, they try to put the NDFP

Continue on page 9

Protests erupt in US after suppression of abortion rights

Protests erupted in the major cities of the United States last June 20 after the Supreme Court overturned the law that ensured women their right to opt for abortion. In addition to the large crowd outside the Supreme Court in Washington DC, protests were held in major cities across the country. Overseas, rallies were held in Australia, Germany and the United Kingdom.

According to the protesters, the Supreme Court denied the women's sector, especially US minority women, their right to abortion, considered a crucial health service. They raised calls like "Our Bodies, Our Choice" and "We won't go back," referring to the 50 years that women had struggled for the right.

In a 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court overturned the historic Roe v Wade judgement which covers the right to abortion, claiming that the Constitution does not directly refer to it and therefore, is not a guaranteed right. As a result of the ruling, abortion will be illegal in about half of US states.

What is Roe v Wade?

Roe v Wade is a 1973 US Supreme Court decision which stated that the 14th Amendment of the American Constitution or the fundamental right to privacy covers the woman's right to terminate her pregnancy. The decision stems from the case of Norma McCorvey, legally known as Jane Roe, against Texas state attorney Henry Wade.

In the past 50 years, millions of women have upheld this decision. This right stems from considering an embryo a part of a woman's body, and that she, and she alone, has the right to decide on it. The state cannot force her to continue a pregnancy.

Since the decision was issued, and despite the continuous attacks against it, the Roe V Wade was never codified, and thus remained a target for reversal.

Health care

Abortion is a simple and common medical procedure that the World Health Organization considers an essential medical service. It is safe when carried out in a method appropriate to a pregnancy's term and by someone with the necessary skills.

There are many reasons why a woman opts for abortion. These include failure and/or lack of access to contraception, rape, incest, partner violence, embryo anomalies or malformation, sickness during pregnancy and others. It is also performed when a woman's life is at risk due to pregnancy and childbirth complications.

Every year, 13% of maternal deaths are due to unsafe abortions, according to the WHO. Women in underdeveloped countries are the most affected, with 220 out of every 100,000 undergo unsafe operations.

In the Philippines, abortion is not only strictly prohibited in all cases (including rape cases, incest, pregnancy of children or emergency situations where the mother's life is at risk). A woman or girl who opted for it, those who performed the operation or provided abortives and those who helped with the process also face possible criminal charges.

According to a 2013 research by the Guttmacher Institute, up to 1,000 women in the Philippines die annually due to unsafe abortions. Due to limited, if any, access to contraception, almost half of the pregnancies in the Philippines is "unintentional." Mothers give birth to children beyond the number that they want. Those from poor families are the most affected, with women giving birth to an average of five children, as opposed to the general average of three children.

According to the research, between 22 and 31 unsafe abortions per 1,000 women were performed in 2000. Therefore, there could have been 610,000 abortions in the Philippines in 2012.

The main reason for these abortions is the inability or absence of funds to raise a child or an additional child. One third said their partner did not support the pregnancy or they were too young to become a mother. Around 13% said they opted for abortion as their pregnancy is due to forced intercourse. Two-thirds (2/3) of women who opted for abortions come from poor families. AB

From page 8

into a position of capitulation, Professor Sison said.

He also said Marcos Jr "lacks any moral authority" having been "elected" to the presidency through a rigged elections with the help of the tyrant Duterte and his cabal in the Comelec.

"He can dream of having a second chance for his dynasty to destroy the revolutionary movement," Sison said. "But he ought to remember that this movement is now much bigger and stronger than when Marcos Sr failed to destroy it."

However, the NDFP is always open to peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines whoever its president is.

"If the administration is willing to talk, why not?" he said. "Resuming peace negotiations is quite easy," Sison said. The GRP or Marcos Jr simply needs to reaffirm agreements that were previously agreed upon and signed by the two parties. AB